

THE
MEMORIAL

OF THE

Chevalier *de St. George*,

On Occasion of the

Princess SOBIESKI'S Retiring
into a Nunnery :

AND

TWO ORIGINAL LETTERS,

Written by the Chevalier to the
said Princess, to dissuade her from that
Design.

Translated from the Original
FRENCH.

L O N D O N :

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THE INTRODUCTION.



HE open Difference between the Chevalier *de St. George* and the Princess *Sobieski* his Wife, has made as much Noise in the World as any Affair of that Nature possibly could; while at the same Time the Reasons of it are known to very few. The Opportunity I had of being inform'd of several Particulars by a Friend at *Rome*, will perhaps enable me to set this Affair in a better Light than it has hitherto been.

Immediately upon the Princess's Retiring into the Nunnery of the *Benedictine* Nuns of *St. Cecilia*, she wrote a Letter to the Pope, and another to Cardinal *Paulucci*, Secretary of State, to give 'em Notice of it; and to inform 'em, that her Reason for so doing was, because the Chevalier had appointed the Earl of *Dunbar* (as

they call him there) who is a Protestant, Governour to their eldest Son; by which his Religion was endanger'd, and heretical Notions might be infus'd into him. This was a very specious Pretence, and made her more grateful to the zealous Catholicks: While on the other hand, some of those deluded Wretches who still call themselves Protestants, and yet court a Popish Government, laid hold of this Opportunity to persuade others as blind as themselves, that the Chevalier did not design to make any Alteration in our Religion; and the better to prevent it, was breeding up his eldest Son and Heir a Protestant. Thus were both these Proceedings cloak'd under the specious Name of Religion. But this is so far from being Fact, that his present Præceptor, Mr. Sheriton, is a most rigid Papist; and we shall find by the following Account, that adulterous Love, and Jealousy, were the only Motives that induced the Princess to take this extraordinary Step.

In the late Queen's Time there was one Colonel *Hay* in the *Scotch* Guards, who got into the Chevalier's Favour by means of the Earl of *Mar* when he was in *Scotland*, and has ever since followed his Fortune. This Gentleman married a Daughter of the Lord Viscount *Stor-*
mount

mount in *Scotland*, a handsome Woman; but ambitious, and of an enterprising Spirit. The Chevalier soon became enamour'd of her, and she was of a Temper to sacrifice every thing to her Ambition; so that it was not very long before the Lord and Lady *Mar* were driven from Court, to make room for these new Favourites. The Colonel was made Prime Minister; no body cou'd be introduced to an Audience, but by his means; no Counsel was put in Execution till he had first approv'd it; and, in short, he govern'd the Chevalier and his whole Court in a most absolute manner. At the same Time his Wife was made first Lady of Honour to the Princess. There are very few of the Fair Sex who can bear a Rival; much less could the Princess *Sobieski*, who is naturally very jealous, and has always been ready to listen to every little Tale that was told her of her Husband. At first, when they were married, they appear'd very fond, and were reckon'd a happy Couple; but Coldness soon succeeded, which at last grew into downright Hatred; and for three Years past they have lived very miserably together, being some times whole Months without speaking to each other. The Princess having used her utmost Endeavours to get this formidable

dable Rival and her Husband discarded, was at last advised by some of her Friends to have recourse to Stratagem; and it was proposed that Col. *Hay* should be created Earl of *Inverness*, and that his Lady should be sent to manage the Pretender's Affairs in *Scotland*, as being the most capable of doing him Service there. The Scheme succeeded, and the new Countess joyfully accepted the Commission, and by way of *France* came into *England*. She had given Notice of her coming to her Friends at *London*; but she met with no Civility, but from the Ministry. They had sent a Messenger, who immediately upon her Landing received her at *Dover*, and conducted her safe to Town, and a Lodging suitable to her Quality was provided for her in *Newgate*; however, she felt the wonted Clemency of his Majesty, and was soon after set at Liberty.

This Accident had broken all her Measures, so that she was obliged to return to *Rome*; where she became a greater Favourite if possible than ever: And the Chevalier's eldest Son being now Five Years old, she prevailed upon him to take him out of the Hands of Women; to send for her Brother, Mr. *Murray*, out of *Scotland*, to create him Earl of *Dunbar*, and to appoint him Governor to his Son; which

which he accordingly did. This Mr. *Murray* was one of the Commissioners for settling the Commerce betwixt *England* and *France* at the Treaty of *Utrecht*, and a Member of the late Queen's Parliament. Upon his Arrival and Preferment, the Princess *Sobieski* grew outrageous: She sent to threaten the Chevalier, that she would retire if he did not remove her Son's Governour; not because he was a Protestant, but Mrs. *Hay*'s Brother. The Chevalier soon shewed which of the Two he had the most Value for. However, the better to colour his Proceedings, he at that Time wrote the Two Letters to her which are printed at the End of his Memorial. The Princess continued firm in her Purpose, and retired; since when she has charged him with divers other Intrigues besides this. I will not positively assert what I am now going to say; but I am credibly inform'd, that she has accused him of Intrigues with common Women, and bringing their Diseases home to her; and that he has writ to some of his Friends in these Parts, to justify himself from that Aspersion, and to insinuate that he thought his Wife a little too intimate with Madam *Sheldon*, and some other Ladies of her Court.

I shall only assure the Reader, that the following is a faithful Translation of the Original MEMORIAL and LETTERS, (except the Alteration of the Regal Style assum'd in the MEMORIAL,) published at *Rome* by the Chevalier Himself, in his own Defence, upon this Occasion.



THE



THE
MEMORIAL
OF THE
Chevalier DE ST. GEORGE.

*In a Letter from a Gentleman at
Rome to his Friend in London.*

S I R, Rome, Dec. 5. N. S.

IN my last I gave
‘ you an Account
‘ of the open
‘ Rupture be-
‘ tween the Che-
‘ valier *de St.*
‘ *George*, and the Princess *So-*
‘ *bieski* his Spouse ; with the va-
B ‘ rious

' rious Opinions of People on
 ' it: Hitherto there appears no
 ' Probability of a Reconciliation,
 ' tho' many of our Cardinals have
 ' used their utmost Endeavours
 ' to bring it to pass; and some of
 ' 'em having talked pretty warm-
 ' ly to the Chevalier about it, he
 ' has thought fit to justify his
 ' Conduct in a publick Manner,
 ' by dispersing Copies of a ME-
 ' MORIAL he has drawn up for
 ' that Purpose: And to this he
 ' has annex'd Two Letters, writ-
 ' ten by him to the Princess a
 ' few Days before her Retirement
 ' into the Nunnery, to divert her
 ' from her Design. I doubt not
 ' but a Sight of these Pieces will
 ' be very acceptable to you and
 ' your Friends in *England*; I
 ' have therefore inclosed 'em for
 ' your Perusal, and am, &c.

The



The MEMORIAL, &c.

THE Chevalier's Enemies have always applied themselves, with Diligence, to sow Divisions amongst those who are entirely devoted to him, and most capable of doing him Service; and they have endeavoured, by Means of such who still pretended to be well affected to his Interest, to engage him in Steps prejudicial to his Honour, and the Welfare of his Affairs.

The Chevalier had reason to believe, from the prudent Measures he had taken, that he could not suffer much from such secret Practices; but what has happen'd within these few Days, has too fully convinced him of the contrary,

The

The Chevalier has for some Time suspected, that his Enemies and pretended Friends, finding they could not influence Him, have endeavoured, by malicious Insinuations, to incense the Princess his Wife, against such of his Servants as were most faithful to Him ; and particularly, against the Person who had the greatest Share in his Confidence, and in the Management of his Affairs : believing they might by this Means effect what they could bring to pass by no other. And they have so far succeeded, that she could not dissemble the Displeasure she had conceived against these Persons. And the Chevalier has perceived her Conduct towards him, to be changed for some Time ; though he could not then dive into the Reasons that made her behave in that manner.

The Chevalier was therefore willing to impute this Conduct
to

to Caprice, and to the ill Offices that have been done him ; and he was in hopes, a little Time, and Patience, would put an End to it: for which reason he did not in the least alter his Behaviour towards the Princess ; who, ever since her Marriage, has been absolute Mistress of her Purse (such as it is, in the narrow Circumstances in which he finds himself;) and he also continued to give her the same Liberty of going out and coming in, whenever she pleased ; to see any one she had a mind to, and to hold such Correspondence as she thought proper ; and he even encouraged her to procure her self more Amusements and Diversions, than she had hitherto seem'd desirous of.

Such being the Situation of his Affairs, the Chevalier could not but be in the utmost Surprise, when it was declar'd to him by a Person, in whom the Princess reposes

reposes a very great Confidence, That if he did not discharge the Earl of *Inverness*, she would retire into a Nunnery ; though she, at the same Time, gave no Reason for such a Conduct, and so extraordinary a Resolution.

In short, last *Friday*, [Nov. 7. N. S.] the Princess her self declared to the Chevalier, that she was determined to retire, without ever alledging any Reason that should induce her so to do ; and she continued to persist in the same Purpose, without ever explaining her self upon this Head, notwithstanding that, with this View, she took Leave last *Friday* of most of the Ladies here.

The Chevalier could not be insensible of the Indignity offer'd him in so publick a manner ; but as He perswaded himself that the Princess had been ill advised, and might be reclaimed, he had a great deal of Compassion

passion, for her having thus exposed her self; as well as Resentment at the same Time, for the unjust Eclat she had made. The Chevalier therefore continued not only to behave as usual towards her; but press'd her in the most moving Terms he could, to acknowledge her Error and return to her Duty: But hitherto she has done neither the one nor the other; yet he hopes that she will soon yield to the moderate and prudent Measures he has taken to bring her back again.

The Chevalier had hitherto imagined that the Lord *Inverness* was the chief Occasion of this Design. For though the Princess's Discontent did not openly appear, till her Son was taken out of the Hands of Madam *Sheldon*; yet she had, before many Persons, spoke of the Lord *Dunbar* in a very favourable manner, and had never expressed the least

Dis-

Displeasure to the Chevalier, at his being appointed her Son's Governour.

What surpriz'd the Chevalier much more, was, that in a Conversation he had last *Monday* with a Person of great Merit, and much esteemed in this City, who (as the Chevalier himself very well knew) had endeavour'd to dissuade the Princess from doing so great an Injury both to her self and the Chevalier, as to retire into a Nunnery; He was inform'd by him, that she was (if possible) more uneasy about the Lord *Dunbar*, than the Lord *Inverness*; pretending that her Son's Religion might be in Danger, while under the Tuition of the former; and that the Princess was perswaded that these two Noblemen were not agreeable to his Friends in *England*, and that their Residence near his Person was the greatest Obstacle to the Success of his Designs.

As

As the Lord *Inverness* was extremely sorry to see the Princess's Conduct on this Occasion, and was apprehensive that the Difference between the Chevalier and her might, tho' wrongfully, be imputed to him, he humbly besought the Chevalier that he might have Liberty to retire from Publick Affairs; and he would infallibly have done it, had not the Chevalier given exprefs Orders to the contrary: And the Chevalier declared at the same Time, as well to him as to the Lord *Dunbar*, that they could not give Him a more open and evident Proof of their inviolable Affection to his Person and Interest, than in continuing with Him at a Juncture which was so disagreeable to them.

From all these Circumstances, and the Steps that were afterwards taken, 'tis easy to perceive, that the Princess has been deluded from the very Beginning;

ning; and that she has been led, not by turbulent and factious Friends, but by direct Enemies; who were willing to reduce the Chevalier to the Extremity, of either seeing himself abandoned by his Wife, or of granting their unjust Demands, and giving himself up to the Direction, not of his Wife, but of some who (as it visibly appears) sought the Destruction of 'em both.

The Chevalier is but too sensible how prejudicial this Conduct of the Princess must now be to him; but He is also persuaded, that the Malice of his Enemies will, in the End, turn to their own Confusion, as soon as the true State of this Affair shall be known.

Notwithstanding the Prudence and Wisdom with which the Chevalier has endeavour'd to dissuade the Princess from putting so extraordinary a Design in Execution; yet *Thursday* Morning, the

13th of Nov. the Princess going out in the Chevalier's Coaches as usual, order'd them to drive to the Nunnery of St. *Cecilia*; and retir'd, without having return'd any Answer to the Chevalier's last Letter, which he had written to her in very tender and most moving Terms, but two Days before, to prevail with her to lay aside the Thoughts of committing such a Folly.

The Chevalier's First LETTER is dated at Rome the 9th of Nov. 1725, N. S. and is as follows.

‘ **Y**OUR Conduct towards
 ‘ me; the Manner in
 ‘ which I have been threatned;
 ‘ and the publick Injury done
 ‘ me, by your Retreat into a
 ‘ Nunnery; do not affect me so
 ‘ much, as the Misfortune and
 ‘ the Shame to which you are exposing

' posing your self by so strange a
 ' Proceeding. 'Tis true, all these
 ' Things touch me as they ought;
 ' but hitherto I have no Resent-
 ' ment against you: for I am
 ' every Moment more and more
 ' convinc'd, that the Malice and
 ' Cunning of our Enemies have
 ' imposed upon your Youth and
 ' the Weakness of your Sex. You
 ' have had Reason a great while
 ' to be persuaded, that I will be
 ' Master of my own Affairs, and
 ' in my own Family; but it is
 ' not yet too late to be sensible of
 ' your Error. Restore your self
 ' therefore to Reason, to Duty
 ' to your self, and to me; who
 ' with open Arms expect your
 ' Submissions, that you may
 ' again meet all the Peace and
 ' Happiness that is in my Power
 ' to confer on you. But if, not-
 ' withstanding all these Efforts of
 ' my Tenderness, you persist in the
 ' Resolution with which you have
 ' threatned

' threatned me, 'twill still be a
 ' Comfort to me to think, that I
 ' have spared no Pains to hinder
 ' you from it. Once more I con-
 ' jure you, my Dear *Clementina*,
 ' to think seriously of what I have
 ' said.

*This Letter is sign'd by the Che-
 valier with his assum'd Title.*

The Chevalier's Second LETTER.

Rome, Nov. 11. 1725.

' **I** Am very glad, *Madam*, that
 ' you have writ to me on this
 ' Occasion; since it affords me
 ' an Opportunity to explain my
 ' Thoughts very fully in the same
 ' manner: which I was unwilling
 ' to do by Word of Mouth, having
 ' by long Experience been con-
 ' vinc'd, that you was so preju-
 ' diced against every thing that
 ' came from me, that you cou'd
 ' not

‘ not so much as hearken to what
 ‘ I said with Patience. I fear
 ‘ too that my Sentiments have
 ‘ not been very clearly explain’d
 ‘ to you ; and I am also willing
 ‘ to believe, that you have not
 ‘ in the least authoris’d the dis-
 ‘ respectful and indecent Manner
 ‘ with which I have been treated
 ‘ on this Occasion.

‘ ’Tis very certain, *Madam*,
 ‘ that I have always lov’d you,
 ‘ and you only ; and I have de-
 ‘ fired nothing so much, as to
 ‘ please you in all Things, save
 ‘ only where my Honour and the
 ‘ Well-being of my Affairs were
 ‘ concern’d.

‘ I am but too sensible that we
 ‘ have often had great Differen-
 ‘ ces and Disquiets ; but for my
 ‘ Part, I should have bore them
 ‘ with more Tranquillity of Mind,
 ‘ had I not seen that they did
 ‘ not so much proceed from the
 ‘ Vivacity of your Temper, as
 ‘ from

‘ from your Readiness to listen
 ‘ to every little Complaint and
 ‘ Infination, and to believe your
 ‘ self offended in the Persons of
 ‘ those who brought you Tales :
 ‘ And you cannot but remember,
 ‘ with what Patience I suffer’d
 ‘ your pouting Humours for a-
 ‘ bove these Two Years past; and
 ‘ that when you would scarce
 ‘ speak to me, or look upon me,
 ‘ I took no other Part than that
 ‘ of Silence.

‘ I hope you will remember,
 ‘ that not only you possess’d my
 ‘ whole Affection, without Part-
 ‘ ner or Rival; but that, as far as
 ‘ my present State and Condi-
 ‘ tion would permit, I have neg-
 ‘ lected nothing that could in the
 ‘ least contribute to your Satis-
 ‘ faction. I never limited you
 ‘ in your Expences; you were
 ‘ Mistress of your going out and
 ‘ coming in; you saw whom you
 ‘ thought proper, and writ and
 ‘ received

' received Letters without con-
 ' troul; and you know, that far
 ' from encouraging you to lead
 ' so private and so solitary a Life
 ' as you did, I used my best En-
 ' deavours to make you take
 ' more Pleasure, which would
 ' very much have contributed to
 ' mine: But after all, I left you
 ' in this, and every Thing else,
 ' the full Liberty of following
 ' your own Will and Inclination;
 ' reserving only to my self the
 ' being Master of my Family
 ' and my Affairs.

' I never, *Madam*, can reco-
 ' ver from my Surprize, at the
 ' unjust and extravagant Notions
 ' with which you have been fil-
 ' led, concerning the Lord and
 ' Lady *Inverness*, since neither
 ' you nor any one ever told me
 ' of one Fact on which they were
 ' founded: and I think my self
 ' obliged to declare, that the
 ' Lord *Inverness*, far from ha-
 ' ving

' ving done you any ill Office
 ' with me, (which no Body yet
 ' has had Boldness enough to at-
 ' tempt) has chiefly employed
 ' that Liberty I give him of
 ' speaking freely to me, in ex-
 ' horting me to Patience and
 ' Mildness, whenever he saw me
 ' dissatisfied with your Proceed-
 ' ings. And as for my Lady, you
 ' and all the World have seen
 ' with what Zeal, and even Af-
 ' fection, she has served you for
 ' several Years ; and hitherto
 ' neither the one nor the other of
 ' them know in what they have
 ' failed of the Respect due to
 ' you ; which would have been
 ' failing of Respect towards me.

' You cannot forget that about
 ' Three Years ago, seeing that
 ' the Lord *Inverness* was a Per-
 ' son disagreeable to you, tho' I
 ' then could not find why, nor
 ' wherefore ; at his Request, and
 ' that only to satisfy you, I took

D

' away

away from him the Direction of
 the Household, since which it has
 not been in his Power to give
 you any Cause of Complaint;
 and as for his Wife, she has
 never from that Time appear'd
 before you, but when you have
 asked for her; so that your
 present Prejudices upon their
 Account, are the most unac-
 countable in the World.

I am certainly incapable of
 advising you to do a mean
 Thing; but I can assure you,
 they have a very false Idea of
 Grandeur, who think they de-
 mean themselves if they be-
 have in a courteous manner to
 Persons whom they have dis-
 gusted by a sudden start of An-
 ger or Impatience.

Such being the State of
 Things, I must doubtless have
 been equally surprized and of-
 fended, when a Threat of yours
 was brought, That if I did not
 drive

' drive away from me a Mini-
 ' ster, able, faithful, and labo-
 ' rious, that you would retire in-
 ' to a Nunnery; for had I at
 ' that Time been inclined to have
 ' put another in his Place, yet
 ' after such a Proceeding, I was
 ' in Honour engaged to continue
 ' him. But without having re-
 ' course to such a Motive as this,
 ' in our present Circumstances
 ' I could not turn him out, with-
 ' out ruining my Interest, and
 ' putting my Affairs in the ut-
 ' most Confusion: and yet tir'd
 ' and afflicted to see himself the
 ' perpetual Mark of your unjust
 ' Anger, as he has long been that
 ' of my Enemies, he has often
 ' desired his Discharge; and no-
 ' thing but my positive Com-
 ' mand could keep him near
 ' me. See, *Madam*, the Diffi-
 ' culties to which you put me;
 ' and where is the honest Man,
 ' who after such Scenes as you
 D 2 ' have

' have shewn the World, will
 ' dare to serve me? Do not
 ' therefore be surprized at my
 ' Expectation of sincere Expres-
 ' sions of hearty Sorrow from
 ' you, for that little Respect you
 ' have shewn me, and for the
 ' Injury you have done, both to
 ' your self and me, by the ex-
 ' traordinary Eclat you have
 ' made; after which you must
 ' open your Heart to me, with-
 ' out the least Reserve. On these
 ' Conditions, I'll forget all that's
 ' past, and will, for the future,
 ' think of nothing but making
 ' you happy.

' As for your eldest Son, 'tis
 ' true, I gave an Order in gene-
 ' ral, that either his Governour
 ' or Sub-Governour should never
 ' lose Sight of him; and indeed
 ' they always came into my
 ' Chamber, tho' they have not
 ' always into yours, particularly
 ' when you was dressing. The
 reason

' reason of this Order, was chiefly
 ' to prevent his getting alone a-
 ' mongst the Servants, where
 ' Children never learn any Thing
 ' good ; but I did not imagine
 ' that you would have been of-
 ' fended, or have taken it in the
 ' Manner you have done ; but
 ' since you make a Matter of Con-
 ' sequence of it, my Intent never
 ' was to hinder you from seeing,
 ' or being alone with the Child
 ' whenever you pleased.

' As for Madam *Sheldon*, 'tis
 ' some considerable Time since
 ' she desired her Discharge ; nor
 ' had I Cause to be very well
 ' satisfied with her. Since then
 ' I have had Reasons for remo-
 ' ving her ; and this you ought
 ' not to be displeas'd at, since I
 ' am Master of my Family and
 ' of my Children. But the whole
 ' World may have observed that
 ' these Excesses of Disquiets did
 ' not begin, or were not carried
 ' up

‘ up to so high a pitch, till I took
 ‘ my Son from under her Care,
 ‘ and out of the Hands of Wo-
 ‘ men: altho’ you never said any
 ‘ thing to me against the Persons
 ‘ whom I entrusted with him ;
 ‘ and whom I know you esteem’d,
 ‘ especially him who treated of
 ‘ and concluded our Marriage.

‘ I protest to you, *Madam*, I
 ‘ know no just Cause you have to
 ‘ complain against me. Did I, I
 ‘ certainly would remedy it; and
 ‘ I persuade myself, that if you
 ‘ would leisurely, and without
 ‘ Prejudice reflect, you would be
 ‘ touch’d with what I have now
 ‘ written, and with the Good-
 ‘ ness and Mildness of my Con-
 ‘ duct towards you ; and that
 ‘ you would not push Things to
 ‘ the utmost Extremity: which
 ‘ you cannot do, without over-
 ‘ whelming your self with the
 ‘ heaviest Misfortunes, and be-
 ‘ coming answerable for what you
 ‘ have

‘ have done, both before God and
 ‘ before Men.

‘ I am surpris’d and troubled at
 ‘ your having taken so important
 ‘ a Resolution, without com-
 ‘ municating it to the Prince
 ‘ your Father; for I am per-
 ‘ swaded he would have us’d his
 ‘ utmost Endeavours to calm
 ‘ you, and hinder you from fol-
 ‘ lowing the Advice of those, who
 ‘ are not afraid of sacrificing your
 ‘ Reputation and Repose to their
 ‘ own wicked Views and perso-
 ‘ nal Considerations.

‘ This, my dear *Clementina*,
 ‘ is all I can say to you on so me-
 ‘ lancholly and deplorable an Oc-
 ‘ casion. Let it, I conjure you, be
 ‘ the Subject of your profound and
 ‘ serious Meditation. Remem-
 ‘ ber, that to acknowledge an
 ‘ Error, when in one, is most
 ‘ honourable; and that the a-
 ‘ mending of it, is the only pos-
 ‘ sible Way left you of being hap-
 ‘ py.

py. And do not any longer
 resist these last Efforts of my
 Tendernefs; which only waits
 your Return, to revive a-fresh,
 and never more to abate, or
 know an End.

*This Letter is also sign'd by the
 Chevalier with his assum'd Title.*

F I N I S



